Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 20 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Sunday 21 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Friday 19 Feb 2021 at 14:04

Confidence: High for occasionally unsettled and seasonally mild, but confidence lowering for the extent and timing of the worst conditions from Sunday onwards.

Headline for Saturday 20 Feb 2021: Dangerous walking weather. Overcast with rain occasionally turning heavy and storm force summit winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability							
30%	70%	70%	80%	>95%	80%	70%	80%

Forecast for Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Weather: Overcast with prolonged periods of rain, turning heavy at times, particularly either side of midday and across southern ranges. However rain turning increasingly light and patchy late evening, with a chance of clear spells spreading from the west towards midnight.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Nil in south 20% in north.

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, less in cloud with bases over northern ranges broken and extensive in south from 450-600m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Forecast for Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	37/46 S	29/37 S	32/41 S	39/50 S	48/62 S	49/65 S	51/69 S	45/62 S	35/49 SW
600	27/38 S	24/33 S	27/37 S	30/43 S	37/52 S	38/56 S	40/59 S	37/55 S	29/44 SW
300	11/30 S	9/26 S	11/28 S	14/35 S	16/42 S	17/46 S	19/50 S	18/45 S	15/36 S
Valley	12/29 S	9/23 S	10/24 SE	13/30 SE	16/38 S	19/43 S	21/47 S	20/41 S	16/32 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-2	4/-2	4/-2	4/-3	5/-3	5/-2	5/-3	4/-4	2/-5
600	6/0	6/1	6/0	6/0	6/0	7/1	6/0	6/-1	4/-2
300	7/4	7/4	7/4	8/4	8/5	9/5	8/5	7/3	6/2
Valley	9/6	8/6	9/6	9/6	10/7	10/7	10/7	9/5	8/4
Freezing Level*	1600m	1600m	1600m	1900m	2000m	2000m	1900m	1500m	1200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Conditions dangerous at height, particularly in the south, with extensive hill fog, storm force summit winds driving rain and a severe chill effect.

Forecast for Sunday 21 Feb 2021

Weather: Mostly dry with some brighter spells appearing. However confidence is medium with an area of cloud and rain to the east of the area, potentially waving westwards, particularly later in the day.

Maximum wind: South or southwest 25 mph with gusts 35 mph, gradually easing from mid-morning.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60% becoming 40% later

Visibility: Generally good, becoming moderate or poor in any rain, less in associated cloud where bases lower 450-600m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 Celsius rising Plus 13 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 2-3 Celsius
Freezing level: Lowering 1000m late in day.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 19 February 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:55 Full report:. It was plus 2 degrees on the summit at midday and raining heavily so the fresh snow was quickly thawing leaving the more resilient, older snow.

Even in sheltered spots, no snow or ice was encountered below 650m with the main snowline being around 750m. Even above this height, large areas of the fells are free from snow almost to summit level. The greatest accumulations of snow are on N and E facing aspects where, above 850m, the deepest drifts can easily swallow a 60cm ice axe - although such depth is the exception. The snowpack was predominantly soft and wet, although there were patches of hard snow and ice especially on popular routes were the snow has been compacted. The largest amount of ice encountered today, as on Thursday, was on the summit plateau which was covered in it and hard snow with some soft snow. This ice, combined with the storm force wind, made crampons essential to avoid being blown over (and potentially off the edge). There are cornices above, predominantly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. With the thaw these now consist of predominantly soft snow, have slumped and weakened. Therefore, although reduced in size, they are extremely unstable, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. The crests of both Striding and Swirral Edges are in mixed condition consisting of bare rock, soft snow and hard compacted snow and ice. Both exits are guarded by banks of steep, deep unavoidable snow. Today, this was soft snow but it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for this snow to harden and in a place where a slip without the means to stop yourself would have extremely serious consequences. Temperature: plus 1.9 C, Maximum wind speed 48.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 8.3 C, Average wind speed: 40.9 mph

Issued at: 1404 on Fri 19 Feb 2021

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